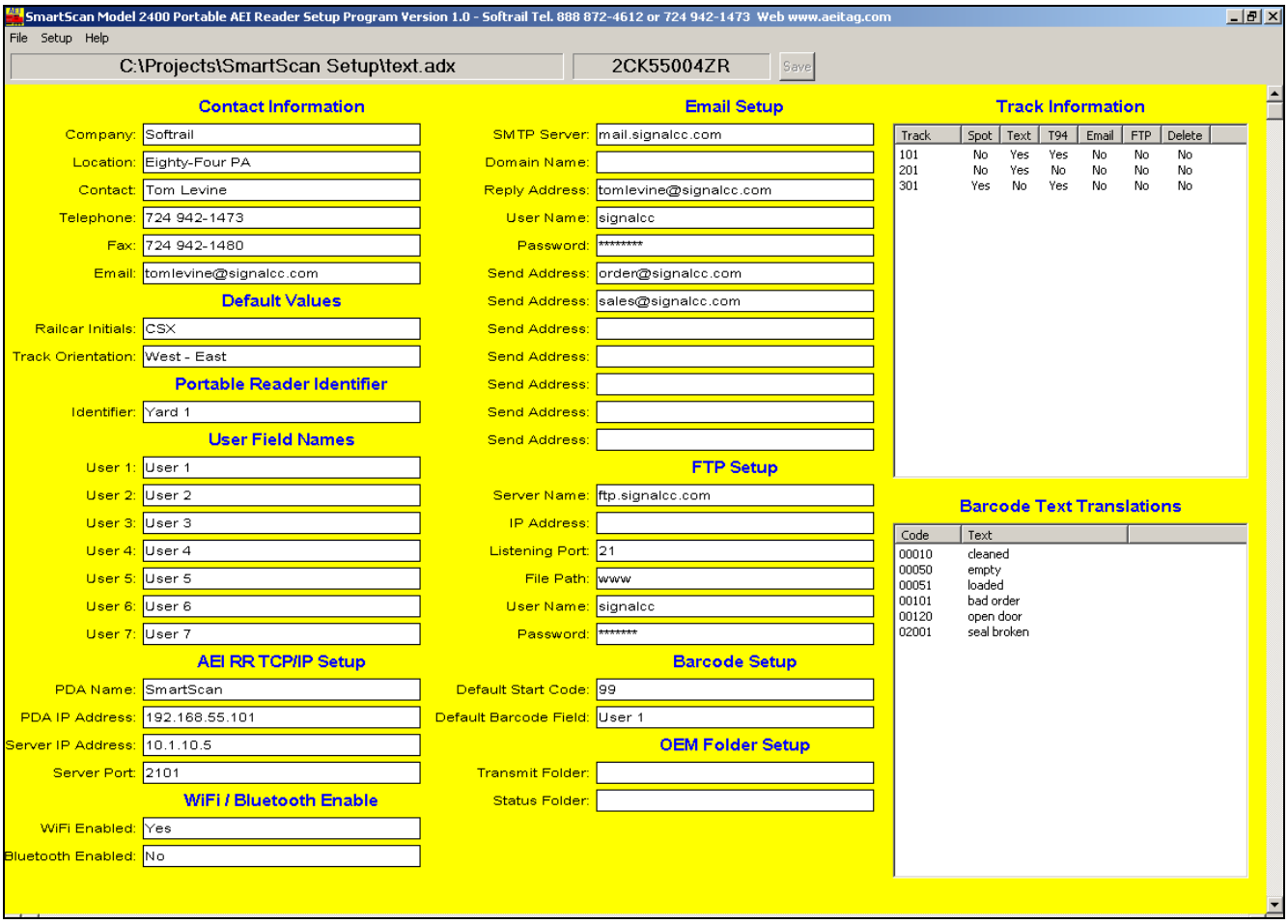
SmartScan Model 2400 Portable AEI Reader Setup Program User Manual

April 2, 2007



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Portable Reader Setup Program

1. BRIEF OVERVIEW

The SmartScan Model 2400 Portable AEI Reader Setup program is used to specify the setup parameters for a SmartScan Model 2400 Portable AEI Reader. This program makes it much easier to enter the portable reader's setup parameters and to copy the setup parameters from one portable reader to another.

The dialogs in this program closely resemble those in the portable reader (see the SmartScan Model 2400 Portable Reader User Manual).

The Portable Reader Setup program creates a file called exportsetup.ads, which is transferred to the portable reader using Windows Explorer. Microsoft's ActiveSync program must be installed in the computer, and the portable reader must be connected to one of the computer's USB ports for the user to copy and paste this file into the portable reader's PDA.

Once the file is downloaded to the portable reader, the user must select the Load Setup File from PC menu item under the File menu to load the setup parameters (see Paragraph 2.4) or reset the portable reader's PDA. To reset the PDA use a pen to depress the reset button, which is located on the backside of the portable reader's case on the left. This will cause the SmartScan program in the portable reader's PDA to restart, and the parameters in the exportsetup.ads will automatically be loaded.

The portable reader will delete the exportsetup.ads file once it has loaded the new setup parameters.

The portable reader also creates a file called importsetup.ads, which contains its current setup parameters. This file can be copied and pasted into a folder in the user's computer. Once the file is pasted into the computer, the Portable Reader Setup program can load the setup information into its database.

2. OPERATIONS

2.1. Main Display

Figure 1 shows the Portable Reader Setup program's main display. The Portable Reader Setup program can save setup parameters in template files that can be opened and saved.

The name of the current template file is located under the menu on the top left portion of the screen.

To the right of the template file name is the serial number of the portable reader's PDA that was used to create the template file. If the setup data was not uploaded from a portable reader, this area will be blank.

The main area of the screen shows the current setup parameters. To change any of these parameters you can either select a menu item under the Setup menu or place the mouse pointer on the parameters you want to change and click the left mouse button. This will cause the appropriate dialog to appear (see Paragraph3).

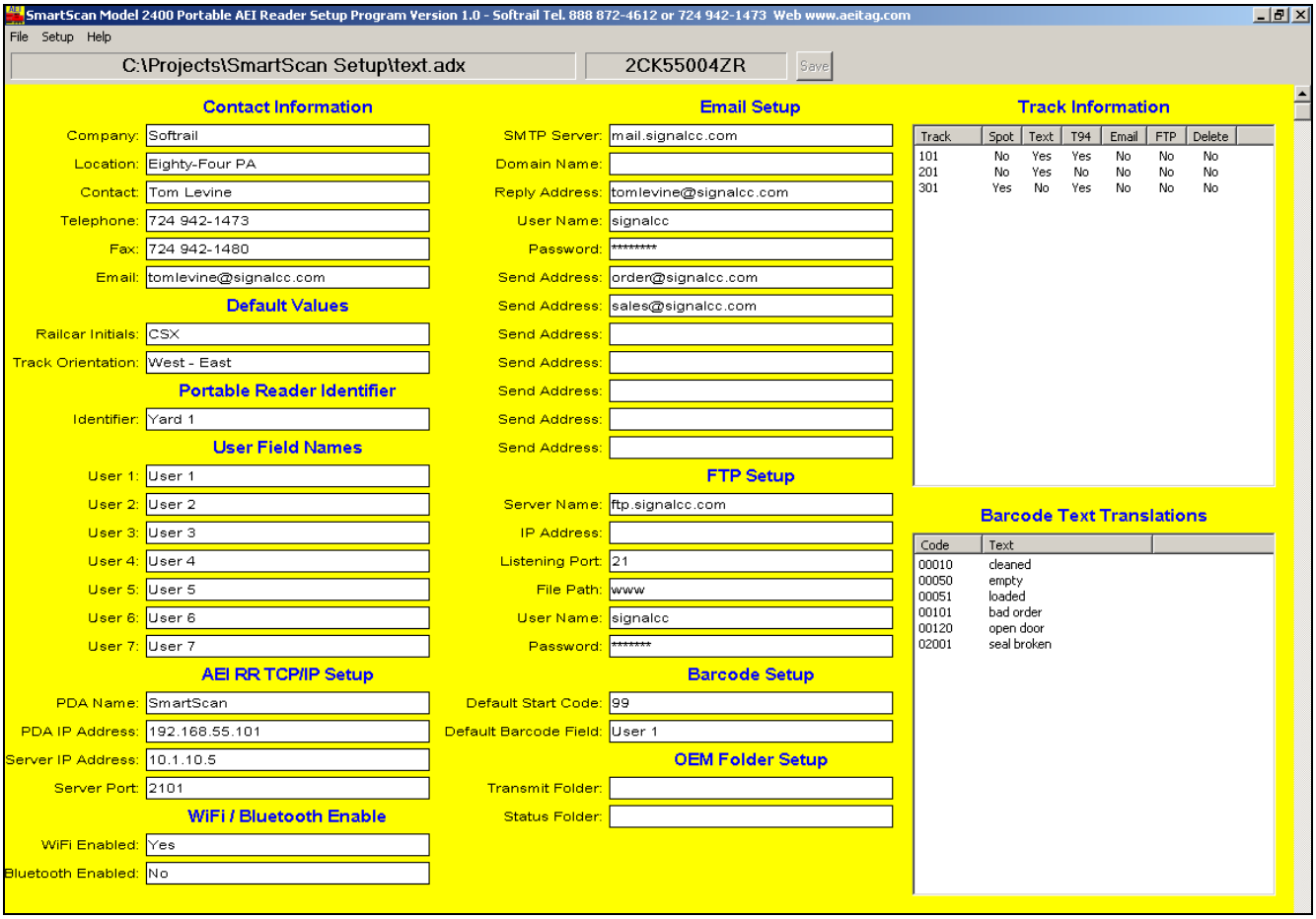

Figure 1 - Main Display

2.2. Loading and Saving Template Files

To create a new template file, select the New Portable Reader Template menu item under the File menu. You cannot assign an existing file name to a new template file. All template files have ".adx" as their file extension.

To open or save any existing template file, select the Open Portable Reader Template or Save Portable Reader Template menu item under the File menu.

When you change any of the setup parameters, the Save button next to the portable reader PDA's serial number will become activate (see Figure 2). Clicking on the Save button will save the current template file.

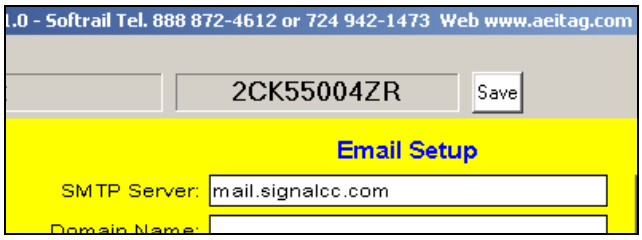

Figure 2 - Save Button

2.3. Import Setup Parameters from the Portable Reader

The portable reader' PDA creates a file called importsetup.ads which can be imported into the Portable Reader Setup program. To import the setup parameters from the portable reader you must install Microsoft's ActiveSync program and connect the portable reader to the computer via the USB cable.

The USB connector on the portable reader is behind the pistol grip and next to the charger connector.

Once the portable reader is connected to the computer, the ActiveSync window shown in Figure 3 will appear indicating that the portable reader is connected.

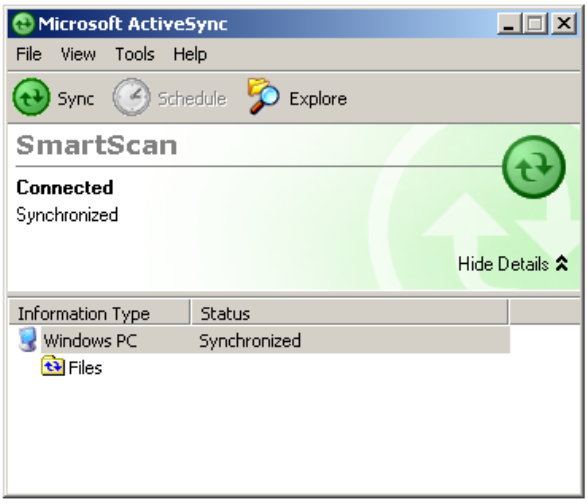

Figure 3 - ActiveSync Connection

To transfer the importsetup.ads file to the computer, open Windows Explorer (go to Start/Programs/Accessories/Windows Explorer).

Near the bottom of the screen (see Figure 4) you should see Mobile Device. Click on the plus sign to the left to expand (See Figure 5).

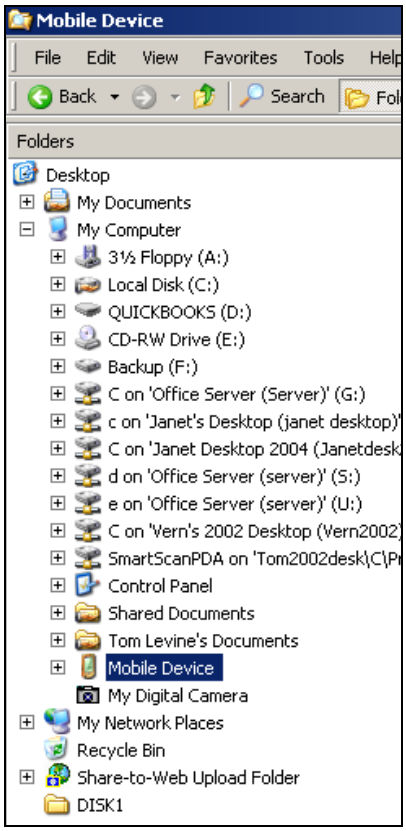

Figure 4 - Windows Explorer Mobile Device

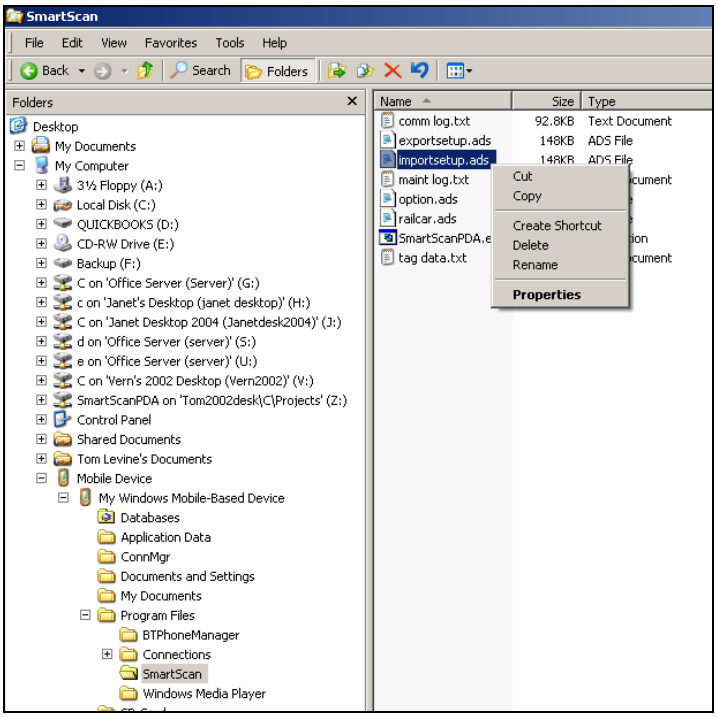

Figure 5 - Import File

Expand the My Windows Mobile-Based Device folder, the Program Files folder and then double click on the SmartScan folder in the right hand screen.

Right click on the importsetup.ads file in the right hand screen, and a pop-up menu will appear. Select copy and then paste the file to a folder in your computer.

After the file is in your computer, select the Load Portable Reader Import Setup File menu item under the File menu. The dialog shown in Figure 6 will appear.

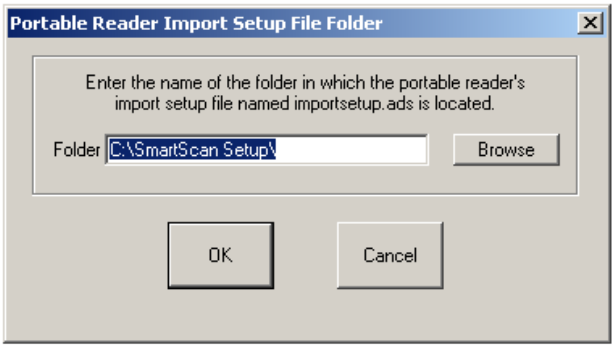
Portable Reader Import Setup File Folder
Enter the name of the folder in which the portable reader's import setup file named importsetup.ads is located.
Folder C:\SmartScan Setup\
Browse
OK
Cancel

Figure 6 - Import Setup File Folder Dialog

Enter the folder that contains the importsetup.ads file.

2.4. Export Setup Parameters to the Portable Reader

The Portable Reader Setup program creates a file called exportsetup.ads, which contains the portable reader's setup parameters. To create this file select the Create Portable Reader Export Setup File menu item under the File menu. A dialog will appear (similar to Figure 6) asking you for the name of the folder in which to store the exportsetup.ads file.

Once created the file must be transferred to the portable reader's PDA by using Windows Explorer's copy and paste commands (see Paragraph 2.3). This file must be copied into the Mobile Device/My Mobile Windows Based-Mobile Device/Program Files/SmartScan folder.

The portable reader will load the parameters in the file if you select the portable reader's Load Setup File from PC menu item under the File menu (see Figure 7) or reset the portable reader's PDA. To reset the PDA use a pen to depress the reset button, which is located on the backside of the portable reader's case on the left. This will cause the SmartScan program in the portable reader's PDA to restart, and the parameters in the exportsetup.ads will be automatically loaded.

Figure 7 - Load Setup File

Once the portable reader loads the new setup parameters it will delete the exportsetup.ads file from the portable reader's PDA.

3. SETUP FUNCTIONS

There are a number of setup functions. These functions are used to configure the portable AEI reader to perform various tasks and reduce repetitive input.

The following is a list of setup functions:

- Contact information - used when sending emails and maintenance information.
- Default values - allows the user to enter a default vehicle initial for the manual vehicle entry dialog and default track orientation when the user starts taking track inventory.
- Memorized Data Maintenance - many data fields have pull down lists of previously entered data. This function allows the user to edit the pull down (memorized) lists.
- Portable Reader Identifier – allows the user to assign a name to the portable reader.
- Track Setup - allows the user to edit track names and add T94 setup data for a track.
- User Defined Field Names Setup - allows the user to enter the names of user defined fields.
- WiFi / Bluetooth Enable – used to enable or disable wireless and Bluetooth communications.
- Email Setup – used to enter email outbound server information for sending data via email.
- Email Send to Addresses – used to enter up to seven email addresses that will receive AEI data.
- FTP Setup – used to enter FTP server information for sending files to an FTP server.
- AEI RR TCP/IP Setup – used to enter the IP address of the computer hosting Softrail's AEI Rail and Road Manager program.
- Barcode Setup – used to specify the barcode parameters for barcodes that are used to enter data into a rail vehicle's data fields.
- Barcode Text – used to enter a list of barcode numbers that are translated by the portable reader into text.
- OEM Folder Setup – used to define where the OEM's application can find files containing AEI tag data and where the OEM's application should save files that are to be transmitted via email or to an FTP server.

The following paragraphs define the setup functions in more detail.

3.1. Methods for Entering Setup Data

There are two methods for changing setup parameters. The first is to click on the Setup menu, which will cause a pop-up menu to appear with a list of menu items. Select the appropriate menu item, and a dialog will appear for entering the data.

The second is to place the mouse pointer on the setup parameters displayed on the screen and click the left mouse button. This will cause the appropriate dialog to appear.

3.2. Contact Information Setup

To set up contact information select the Contact Information menu item under the Setup menu or place the mouse pointer on the Contact Information data displayed on the screen and click the left mouse button.

This will cause the Contact Information dialog shown in Figure 8 to be displayed.

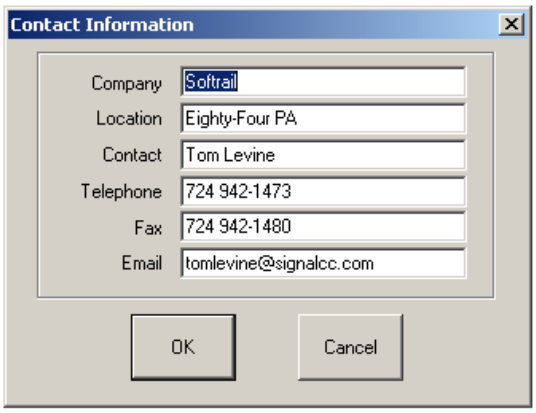

Figure 8 - Contact Information Dialog

Information entered in this display is used in the body of some email messages and in maintenance messages sent to Softrail.

3.3. Default Values Setup

To set up default values select the Default Values menu item under the Setup menu or place the mouse pointer on the Default Values data displayed on the screen and click the left mouse button.

This will cause the Default Values dialog shown in Figure 9 to be displayed.

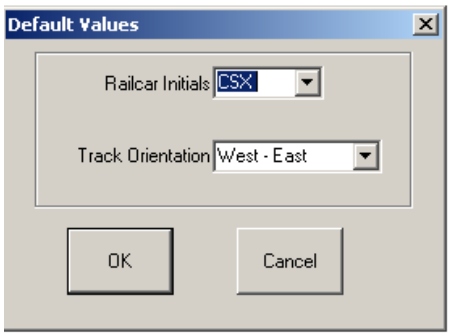

Figure 9 - Default Values Dialog

Default values for vehicle initial and track orientation can be entered into the system. The default value for the vehicle initial is used when vehicle identification is manually entered into the portable reader.

The vehicle initial can either be selected from a list of previously entered initials in the Vehicle Initial field's pull down list (which appears when you click on the down triangle located on the right side of the Vehicle Initial field), or a new initial can be typed in.

After you have entered a new initial, the new initial will appear in the Vehicle Initial's pull down list when this dialog is displayed again.

The default orientation is used when track inventory is started and the track name is entered.

3.4. Memorized Data Maintenance

For many fields the portable reader remembers previous entries so they can be easily reused by simply selecting them from a pull down list. This eliminates retyping of common data entries.

The portable reader has a function to maintain memorized lists of previously entered data. To access this function select the Memorized Data Maintenance menu item under the Setup menu. Memorized data fields are not displayed on the main screen.

This will cause the Memorized Field Select dialog shown in Figure 10 to be displayed.

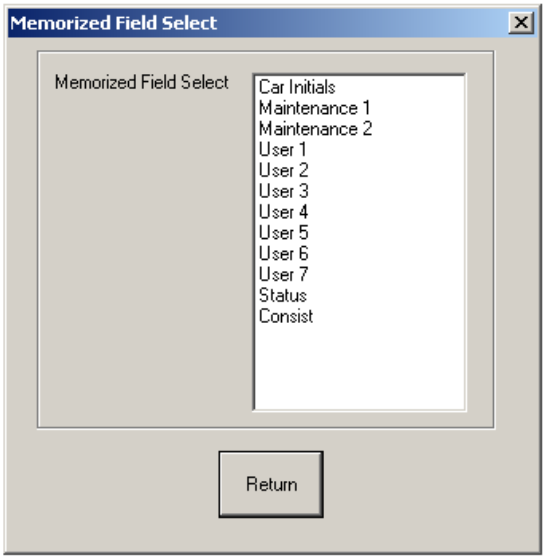

Figure 10 - Memorized Field Select Dialog

The Memorized Field Select dialog displays all of the fields on which the portable reader maintains memorized lists of data entries. To edit a particular field's list, select the particular field to be edited, and the appropriate Memorized Fields Data dialog will be displayed (see Figure 11).

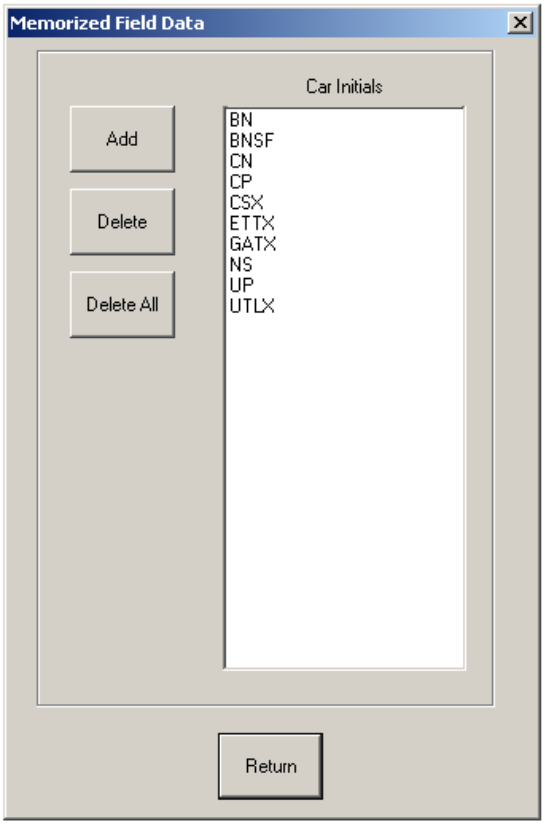

Figure 11 - Memorized Fields Data Dialog

The figure above is an example of what would appear if the Car Initials field is selected in the Memorized Field dialog.

Previously entered values can be deleted or new values can be added to each particular field's memorized list. To delete an entry first select the entry by selecting it and then click the Delete button. Only one entry can be selected at a time.

3.5. Portable Reader Identifier

The portable reader allows the user to assign a ten-character identifier to the portable reader. If the user does not define an identifier, the portable reader will use the last four characters of its PDA serial number as the identifier.

To access this function select the Portable Reader Identifier menu item under the Setup menu or place the mouse pointer on the Portable Reader Identifier data displayed on the screen and click the left mouse button.

This will cause the Portable Reader Identifier dialog shown in Figure 12 to be displayed.

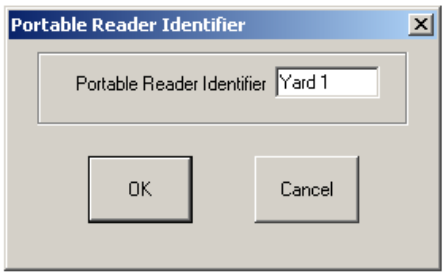

Figure 12 - Portable Reader Identifier Dialog

3.6. Track Setup

To set up track values select the Track Setup menu item under the Setup menu or place the mouse pointer on the Track Information displayed on the screen and click the left mouse button.

This will cause the Track Setup dialog shown in Figure 13 to be displayed.

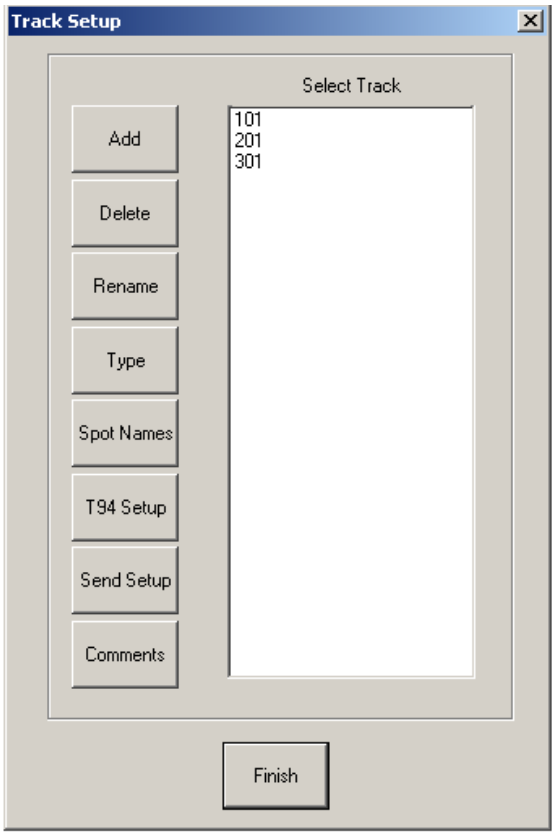

Figure 13 - Track Setup Dialog

Previously entered track names can be deleted or renamed, and new track names can be added. To delete or rename a track, first select the track and then click the Delete or Rename button. Only one track name can be selected at a time.

To add a new track name select the Add button, and an Add Track dialog will appear.

Tracks can be assigned to have spot locations. To designate that a track will have spot locations, select the track and select the Type button.

Names can be assigned to track spots. To assign names to track spots, select the track and select the Spot Names button. The Spot Name Setup dialog shown in Figure 14 will appear.

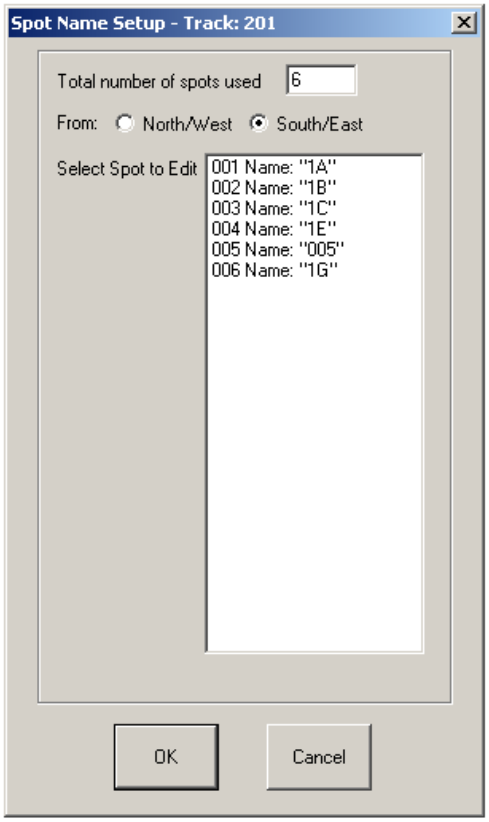

Figure 14 - Spot Name Setup Dialog

Up to 100 spot names can be assigned. The user can specify the direction in which the spot locations are listed. Spot names are by default given numerical names based on their position on the track (see Position 005 in Figure 14). To assign a new name select the spot position you want to change, and the Rename Track Spot dialog shown in Figure 15 will appear.

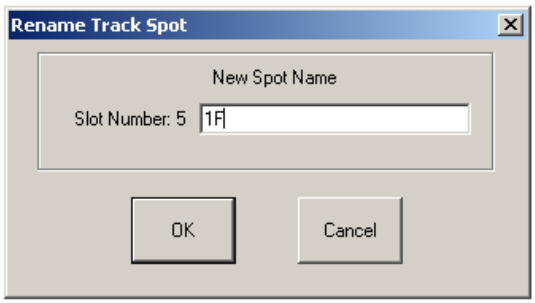

Figure 15 - Rename Track Spot Dialog

The T94 protocol has a TRK (track) segment. This segment is defined in Paragraph 2.26 in the Association of American Railroad's AEI Standard S-918, which can be downloaded from our web page at www.aeitag.com. T94 messages also have a requirement for an AEI site identifier (see Paragraph 2.1.5 in the S-918 standard). This information is entered by selecting a track and clicking on the T94 Setup button. This will cause the T94 Track Data dialog to be displayed (see Figure 16).

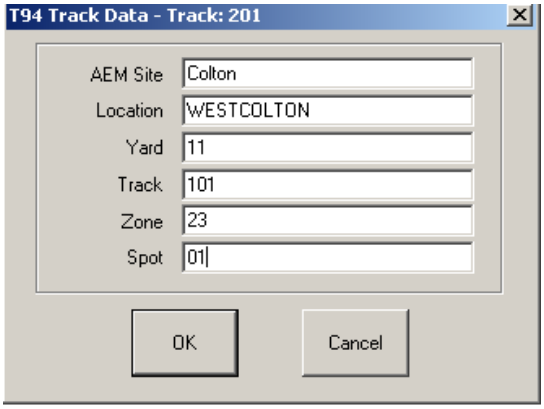

Figure 16 - T94 Track Data Dialog

If data is to be transmitted in a T94 format, at a minimum, the 7-character AEM Site identifier must be entered. All other fields can be left blank.

When the user finishes taking inventory on a track, he can request that the track's consist be sent to other systems. To set the default parameters for sending track information, select a track and select the Send Setup button. This will cause the Send Track Inventory dialog shown in Figure 17 to appear.

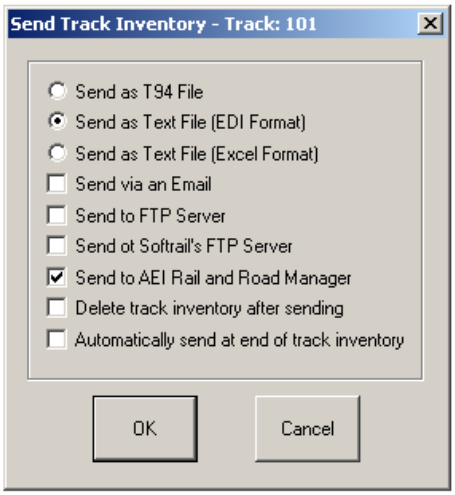
Send Track Inventory - Track: 101
Send as T94 File
Send as Text File (EDI Format)
Send as Text File (Excel Format)
Send via an Email
Send to FTP Server
Send ot Softrail's FTP Server
Send to AEI Rail and Road Manager
Delete track inventory after sending
Automatically send at end of track inventory
OK
Cancel

Figure 17 - Send Track Inventory Setup Dialog

The portable AEI reader can send track inventory in two types of file formats. The T94 format is the standard format used for communication between wayside AEI readers and railroads' host computers. Information about this format can be found in the Association of American Railroads' AEI Standard S-918, which can be downloaded from our web page at www.aeitag.com.

The second format is a comma delimited text file. This type of file can be easily imported into most commercial word processing, spreadsheet and database programs. For information about the format of this type of file go to Paragraph 14 in the SmartScan Model 2400 Portable Reader User Manual.

Track inventory in either file format can be sent as an attachment to an email and/or as a file directly sent to an FTP server. To use either of these options the email server name or FTP server name, user name, and password must be entered into the portable reader's PDA prior to attempting to send inventory. Information on setting up the email or FTP functions can be found in Paragraphs 3.8 or 3.10, respectively. Files can be sent to up to seven email addresses. For information on entering email addresses into the system go to Paragraph 3.9.

Softrail also maintains an FTP server for receiving track inventory. Softrail uses this server to provide a data redistribution service to portable reader users. Softrail can forward track inventory received on Softrail's FTP server to multiple email addresses, FTP servers or computers using dialup connections.

For more information about this service contact Softrail at 888 872-4612 or 724 942-1473.

The portable AEI reader can also send track inventory to Softrail's AEI Rail and Road Manager program directly via a TCP/IP connection (see Paragraph 3.8).

A limited copy of the AEI Rail & Road Manager Program called AEI Rail & Road Manager Express is included with each SmartScan Model 2400 Portable AEI Reader.

For more information about the AEI Rail and Road Manager software program contact Softrail at 888 872-4612 or 724 942-1473 or go to Softrail's web page at www.aeitag.com.

The user can cause the track inventory to be sent automatically when he finishes taking track inventory by reading a Track AEI tag or by selecting the End Track Inventory menu item from a pop-up menu (see Paragraph 2.3).

There are two comments fields associated with a track. To enter data into the comments fields, select a track and select the Comments button. This will cause the T94 Comments and Email Text dialog shown in Figure 18 to appear.

The TRK segment in the T94 message has a field for comments. This function allows the user to enter comments about a track in the TRK segment prior to the data being sent. It also allows the user to enter comments about the track in the body text of an email if the message is being sent via an email.

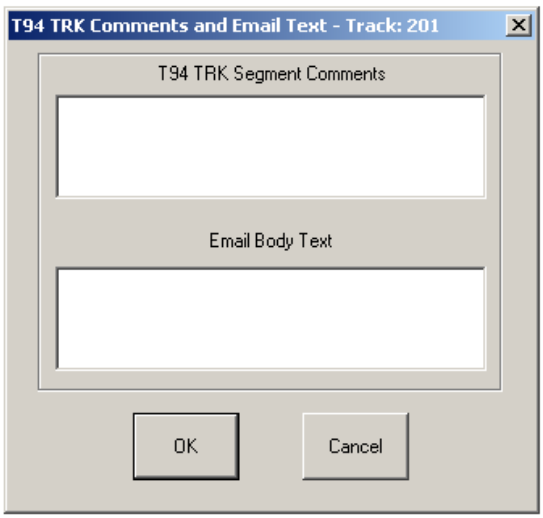

Figure 18 - Track Comments and Email Text Dialog

3.7. User Field Names Setup

The portable reader allows the user to define up to seven data fields. Data entered into these fields is maintained with the vehicle and can be sent to other systems in text file format.

The user can specify unique names for these fields by using the User Field Names Setup function. To access this function select the User Field Names Setup menu item under the Setup menu or place the mouse pointer on the User Field Names displayed on the screen and click the left mouse button.

This will cause the User Field Names Setup dialog shown in Figure 19 to be displayed.

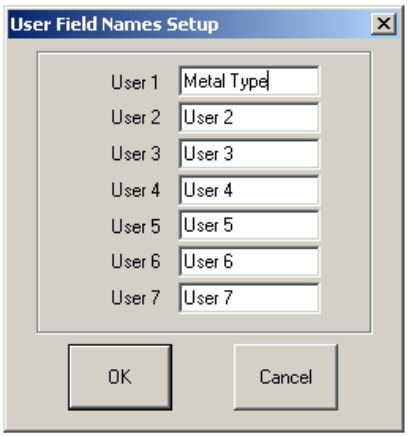

Figure 19 - User Field Names Setup Dialog

3.8. AEI RR TCP/IP Setup

The portable reader is designed to work in conjunction with Softrail's AEI Rail and Road Manager program.

The AEI Rail & Road Manager software was designed as a low cost package for tracking rail vehicle movements in a rail yard. This is a Windows based program that can run under the Windows 98, NT, 2000, ME, or XP operating system.

The AEI Rail & Road Manager software program allows the user to draw his/her own facility and move rail cars by reading their tags with a portable AEI reader or by manually dragging and dropping rail car icons from one track to another. By using input from wayside AEI readers, the program can also automatically track rail car movements.

A limited copy of the AEI Rail & Road Manager Program called AEI Rail & Road Manager Express is included with each SmartScan Model 2400 Portable AEI Reader.

To send track data to the AEI Rail and Road Manager program the portable reader needs to know the IP address of the computer hosting the AEI Rail and Road Manager program and the port to which the program is listening for a connection.

The listening port is a setup parameter in the AEI Rail and Road Manager program.

To enter this information, select the AEI RR TCP/IP Setup menu item under the Setup menu or place the mouse pointer on the AEI RR TCP/IP Setup data displayed on the screen and click the left mouse button.

This will cause the AEI RR TCP/IP Setup dialog shown in Figure 20 to be displayed.

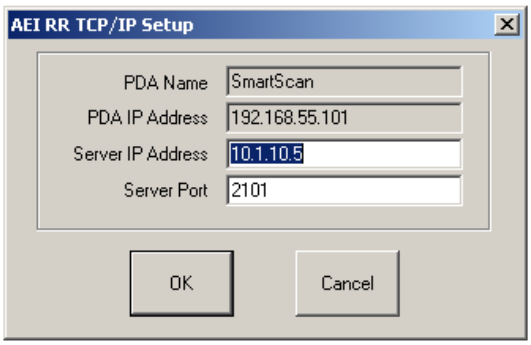

Figure 20 - AEI RR TCP/IP Setup Dialog

This display also shows the portable reader's PDA Name and the current IP address of the PDA.

3.9. Email Setup

To send track inventory via an email attachment, the portable reader must have information on how to access the user's outbound email server. To enter this information select the Email Setup menu item under the Setup menu or place the mouse pointer on the Email Setup data displayed on the screen and click the left mouse button.

This will cause the Email Setup dialog shown in Figure 21 to be displayed.

Figure 21 - Email Setup Dialog

The Domain Name may not be required. Some outbound email servers require a different Domain Name than the Reply Name.

Some outbound email servers do not require a password, and this field can be left blank.

The reply address entered in this dialog is used as the reply address for all outbound emails.

The portable reader's PDA does not receive inbound emails.

3.10. FTP Setup

To send track data to an FTP server the portable reader must have information on how to access the FTP server. To enter this information select the FTP Setup menu item under the Setup menu or place the mouse pointer on the FTP Setup data displayed on the screen and click the left mouse button.

This will cause the FTP Setup dialog shown in Figure 22 to be displayed.

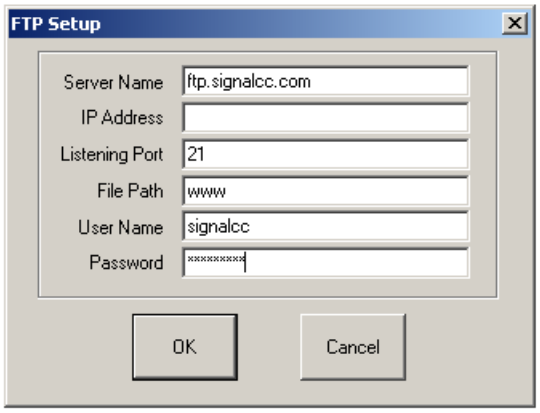

Figure 22 - FTP Server Setup Dialog

The FTP Server must have either a Server Name or an IP Address. If both are present the portable reader will use the Server Name.

The Listening Port is almost always 21.

The portable reader sends files to the FTP server. It does not retrieve files from the FTP server.

3.11. WiFi / Bluetooth Enable

If you plan to communicate using the WiFi (802.1b) or Bluetooth radio networks you must enable their use. To enable either of these radio networks select the WiFi / Bluetooth Enable menu item under the Setup menu or place the mouse pointer on WiFi / Bluetooth Enable displayed on the screen and click the left mouse button. This will cause the WiFi Bluetooth Enable dialog shown in Figure 23 to be displayed.

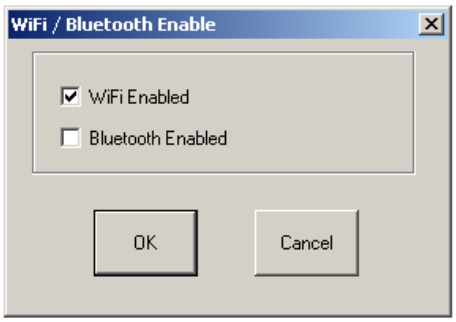

Figure 23 - Communication Setup Dialog

3.12. Barcodes

The portable reader is designed to operate with an optional barcode reader. With a barcode reader information on barcodes can be used to quickly and easily enter data about a rail vehicle.

The portable reader is set up to read barcodes in the Universal Bar Code (UPC) format. The UPC format contains 12 digits. The first digit is usually 0 and specifies the Number Character System. The next ten digits are user specified, and the last digit is a check digit.

Figure 24 shows examples of barcodes.

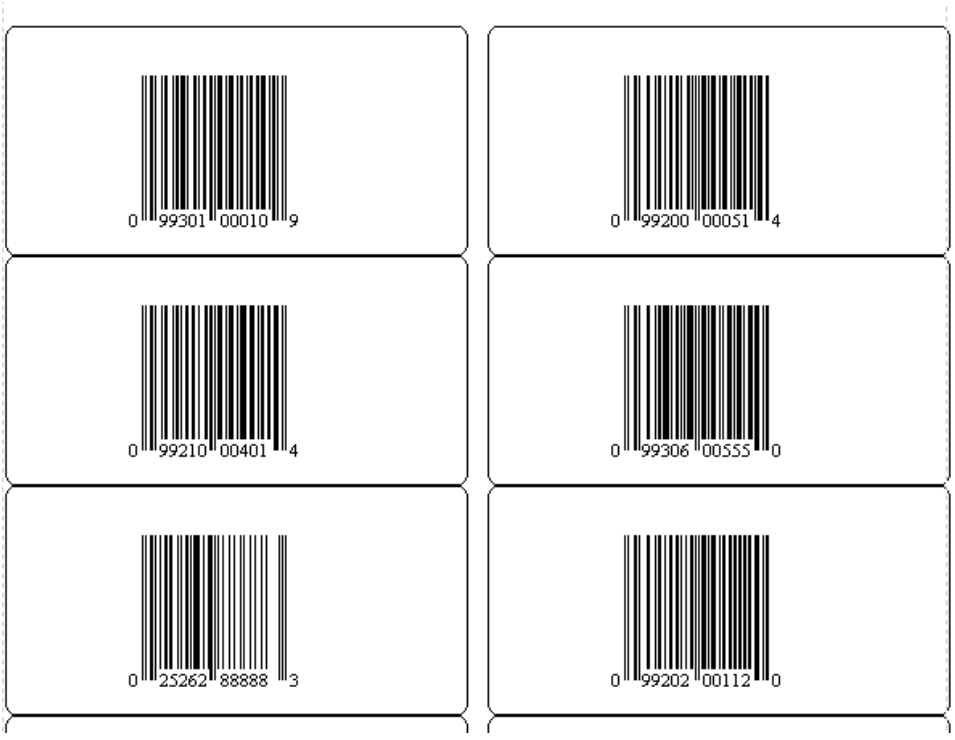

Figure 24 - Barcode Examples

The portable reader reads the barcode and enters the information into one of the 11 data fields (see Paragraph 3 in the SmartScan Model 2400 Portable AEI Reader User Manual) that are

associated with the rail vehicle. The user can specify into which of the eleven fields data from a barcode will be entered and can also specify if this is a special barcode that was developed by the user for use with the portable reader.

The portable reader looks at the second and third digit of the barcode to determine how to handle the barcode. If these two digits are not the same as those entered into the Default Start Code field in the Barcode Setup dialog (see Figure 25), then the barcode data will be entered in the field that is specified in the Default Bar Code Field in the Barcode Setup dialog.

In Figure 24 the UPC label at the bottom left does not have "99" in the second and third digits and, therefore, its data (025262888883) would be entered in the User 1 field for the rail vehicle.

To display the Barcode Setup dialog select the Barcode Setup item under the setup menu or place the mouse pointer on the Barcode Setup data displayed on the screen and click the left mouse button.

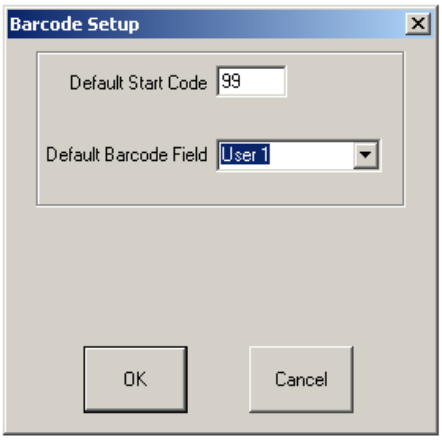

Figure 25 - Barcode Setup Dialog

The user can specify his own unique set of barcodes that have special meaning to the portable AEI reader. These barcodes have a special format that consists of three fields in the user specified ten-digit number of the bar code. These fields are the two-digit Default Start Code specified in the Barcode Setup dialog above, the three-digit Field Code (see Figure 26) and five-digits for the user data.

Figure 26 is a table that shows the barcode field structure.

Field Description	Position	Field Length	Data
Numeric System Character	1	1	Usually 0
Default Start Code	2-3	2	Any two-digit combination specified by the user.
Field Code	4-6	3	Specifies the field into which the barcode data will be entered. 200 = Status Field 201 = Consist Field 211 = Maintenance 1 Field 212 = Maintenance 2 Field 301 = User 1 Field 302 = User 2 Field 303 = User 3 Field 304 = User 4 Field 305 = User 5 Field 306 = User 6 Field 307 = User 7 Field
User Data Field	7-11	5	Five digits of data that will be entered into the field specified in the Field Code field.
Check Digit	12	1	Barcode check digit, not user specified.

Figure 26 - Barcode Field Structure

Based on this structure, the barcodes in Figure 24 cause the following:

- Barcode 0 9930100010 9 - 00010 entered into the User 1 field
- Barcode 0 9920000051 4 - 00051 entered into the Status field
- Barcode 0 9921100401 4 - 00401 entered into the Maintenance 1 field
- Barcode 0 9930600555 0 - 00555 entered into the User 6 field
- Barcode 0 2526288888 3 - 025262888883 entered into the User 1 field, since 99 is not in the second and third digit
- Barcode 0 9920200112 0 – 099202001120 entered into the User 1 field, since 202 is not a legal Field Code

The user can also have the portable reader translate the 5 digits of data in the barcode to a text string. For example, 00010 can be translated by the portable reader into "empty". Instead of 00010 appearing in the User1 field, the text string "empty" would appear.

To enter barcode text translations select the Barcode Text Translation item in the Setup menu or place the mouse pointer on the Bar Code Text Translations data displayed on the screen and click the left mouse button. This will cause the Barcode Text Translation dialog shown in Figure 27 to appear.

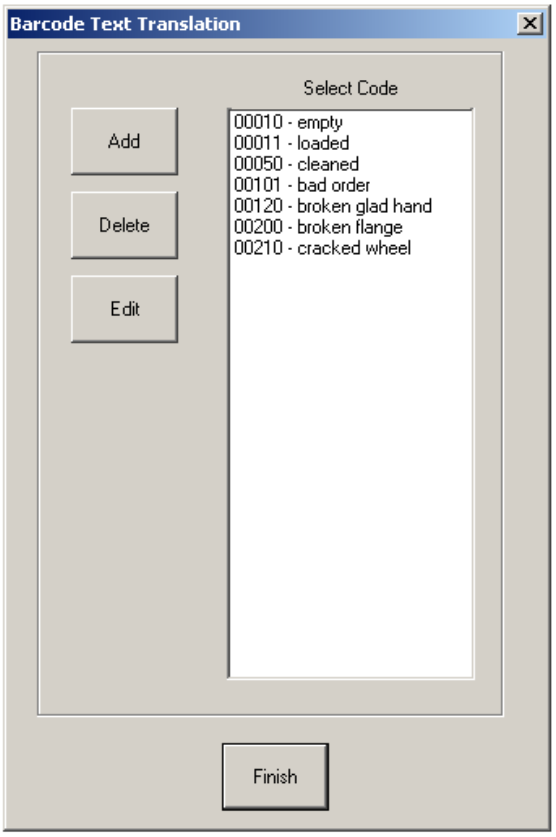

Figure 27- Barcode Text Translation Dialog

To add a new barcode translation select the Add button and the Barcode Add/Edit dialog shown in Figure 28 will appear.

To delete or edit a translation, select the translation in the list and select the Edit or Delete button.

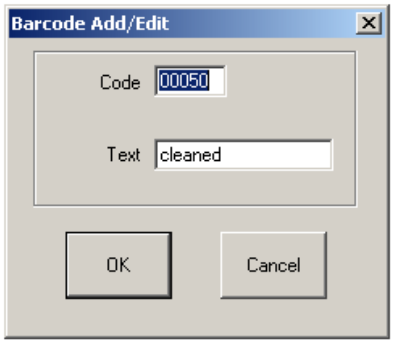

Figure 28 - Barcode Add/Edit Dialog

3.13. OEM Folder Setup

The portable reader is designed to make it easy for other companies (OEMs) to develop their own applications to incorporate into the portable reader.

To assist OEMs, the portable reader provides easy access to AEI tag data and provides a simple method for applications to send their data to other system via email attachments or as a file transfer to an FTP server.

Data transfer between the portable reader and an OEM's application is through a set of text files that are written into a specific folder in the portable reader's PDA.

The folder to which the files are written can be specified by using the OEM Folder Setup function.

To access this function select the OEM Folder Setup menu item under the Setup menu or place the mouse pointer on the OEM Folder Setup data displayed on the screen and click the left mouse button.

This will cause the OEM Folder Setup dialog shown in Figure 29 to be displayed.

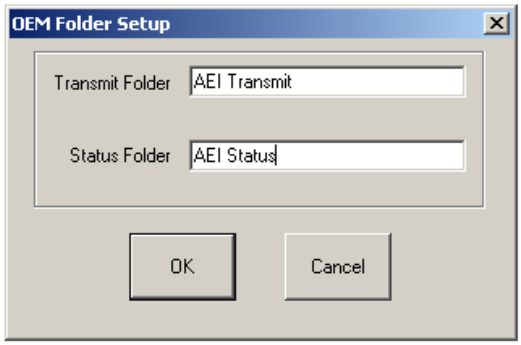

Figure 29 - OEM Folder Setup

The transmit folder contains the OEM files that are to be transmitted by the portable reader, and the Status Folder contains the file that has the AEI tag and barcode data.

For more information on interfacing OEM applications see Paragraph 9 in the SmartScan Model 2400 Portable AEI Reader User Manual.

4. TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND UPDATES

Periodically Softrail issues maintenance releases and new versions of this program. Maintenance releases are free and correct problems found with the program and/or provide minor enhancements to the program. Before contacting us with problems we suggest that you contact your sales representative and review the issues with him and then check our web page at www.aeitag.com to insure that you have the latest maintenance release of the program.

Two hours of free technical support during the first year after the purchase are included with each portable reader that is purchased. Time is charged in blocks of 15 minutes.

A maintenance agreement can be purchased to extend the period of technical support or add additional hours.

For technical support or more information on the maintenance agreement contact Softrail at:

Softrail, Inc.
1098 Venetia Road
Eighty Four, PA 15330

Tel. 888 872-4612 (toll free US and Canada only) or 724 942-1473
Fax. 724 942-1480
E-mail aei@signalcc.com
Web Page www.aeitag.com

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